

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification as follows.

RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 10/611,257, filed June 30, 2003 ~~[[2002]]~~.

[0032] The example current gain device 316 converts the voltage input from the integrator 312 to a current and drives the laser 102 with the current (i.e., laser bias current). The current gain device may be a field effect transistor, a bipolar junction transistor, or suitable current gain device. The integrator 312, a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) (not shown) ~~the DAC 314~~, and the current gain device 316 may be on the same chip.

[0034] The transponder 402 may transmit optical beams generated by the laser 100. Although not shown for purposes of simplicity, the transponder 402 also may receive optical beams from the transponder 412 ~~[[410]]~~.